

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 13, 2003 LB 726

And I hope that we can come up with a policy that's reflective of the interests, as much as possible, across the state of Nebraska. Mr. President, I would respectfully ask to pull this amendment, and the subsequent amendment as well. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Now we'll proceed with discussion of the bill itself. Next up is Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President, members of the body, I want to rise in strong support of Senator Louden's bill. Jus heard from a few of my motels in my district, and those would be in Garfield County. And Garfield County is a very rural county. There's probably one or two motels in that area. But the Calamus Dam is located close. It's close to Comstock. There are lots of opportunities for people to come to, or even go through, Burwell and Garfield County. And they strongly support this bill, because this will give them the added 2 percent, if it is voted in by their county, to be able to utilize a brick and mortar location in their area. And they're looking at a one-room schoolhouse that they could make a tourist site, or even use it as a tourist information booth. So this is something that they strongly support. You look at, across the state, one size fits all. The sad thing about it is, various different parts of the state, different counties, implement their own taxes. So out in that area they have no city sales tax, they don't have a lot of the other taxes that are implemented in Lincoln and Omaha, so their taxes aren't 14 or 16 percent. So it's very difficult to look at the big picture and say, okay, one area is 6 and 8 percent, one is 14 percent. You know, they have that local control. If they choose not to add any more taxes to their motels, that's certainly to their choice. But in my area, we certainly do encourage economic development through tourism, and we hope this does pass for that reason. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Louden, you are recognized.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I appreciate your support, Senator McDonald. And this, I think,